

Americans who have bravely risked their lives far and away to keep the bridge of democracy standing, I also have the opportunity to defend my country by serving in the military. I can help keep the principles of our democracy alive through my talents, skills, and actions for the betterment of my community and our great nation.

Through knowledge and contribution, I have become an effective cable in the bridge of our democracy that will allow our great society to cross into the future . . . and my voice in our democracy will be heard.

HONORING THE BROOKLYN CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Innovations in American Government, an awards program of the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy's School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government, in commending the exciting efforts of Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center (BCAC) in creating a program which put children first.

Innovations in American Government is recognized as one of the most prestigious public awards in the country. Innovations awards and recognizes programs and policies that represent original and effective government initiatives. The Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center is among the 100 semifinalists for the award this year. BCAC is an inter-agency partnership that brings together all the jurisdictional agencies responsible for the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse.

Traditionally, the investigation of child sexual abuse meant multiple interviews with multiple professionals, disclosing the abuse to three separate agencies. Through the creation of BCAC, previous practices have changed dramatically. When children disclose sexual abuse, they are brought to the BCAC, a child-friendly environment, instead of police precincts, emergency rooms, and municipal offices. At the Center, specialized units of each agency's staff work together in a coordinated, multidisciplinary team approach.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center for all of its achievements and hard work to meet the needs of children who have been victimized.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF PRINCIPAL PATRICIA K. O'CONNOR

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes today to give tribute to Ms. Patricia K. O'Connor, the principal of St. Edmund Elementary School, in recognition of her 25 years of service to the students of St. Edmund.

Principal O'Connor spent her first twelve years at St. Edmund teaching students in the middle and upper grades before assuming the position of principal in 1984. Since then, her

dedicated spirit and enthusiasm have left an indelible mark on St. Edmund Elementary School.

During her tenure, Principal O'Connor has helped St. Edmund to flourish and grow. She introduced a pre-Kindergarten program and a full-day Kindergarten program for the benefit of the youngest students at St. Edmund. Keeping pace with new technologies, Principal O'Connor has ensured that the school has a fully equipped computer lab for use by the students. Her efforts have won Middle States Accreditation for St. Edmund Elementary School.

A school is not just an academic institution, it is also a community of students, parents, and teachers. Principal O'Connor has contributed to this community in the same way, and with the same dedicated work, that she has contributed to the classrooms of St. Edmund Elementary. She has started the Children's Choir which performs at many Liturgical celebrations in addition to establishing a Children's Liturgy at Mass on the third Sunday of each month. She has organized school plays such as a Christmas Pageant and a Passion Play which is performed during Holy Week. By helping to start a student-run newspaper she has strengthened the sense of community at St. Edmund immeasurably.

Principal O'Connor's talents have been previously recognized through her position as Liaison to District #22 for Remediation. I am sure that all of my colleagues today will be delighted to join with me in honoring Principal Patricia K. O'Connor for her twenty-five years of service to the community of St. Edmund Elementary School as a teacher, a principal, and as a leader.

HANOVER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CELEBRATES ENDURING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AFTER 75 YEARS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, May 13, 1998 will mark the 75th anniversary of south central Pennsylvania's, Hanover Chamber of Commerce. Since its establishment in 1923, the Chamber has been dedicated to serving the community and promoting the economic interests of Hanover's merchants and manufacturers.

For three quarters of a century, the Hanover area has benefitted tremendously from the Chambers efforts to improve the quality of life in the community. Because of the Chamber's enduring dedication to promote the business opportunities in the area, Hanover has become Pennsylvania's fifth largest retail trading area and eighth largest manufacturing center.

Today, the Chamber's leadership has been even more vital to the future of their community. As Hanover continues to experience an explosion of commercial and residential growth, the Chamber recognized this challenge by adopting a visionary agenda—the Hanover 2000 Plan—to effectively manage this tremendous expansion. The plan focuses on community development, human services, water and scenic resource protection, and infrastructure improvements.

This combination of economic promotion and community service initiatives are sure to

bring the Hanover area to the forefront of excellence as we enter the 20th century. In recognition of its past and future successes, I am pleased to associate myself with such an important organization committed to better serving the greater Hanover area and join them as they celebrate their Diamond Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ROGER SHEPHERD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man.

Roger Shepherd was a person who was proud of his community and envisioned great things for the future. As a school teacher, he touched the lives of children and helped to shape future generations. As Mayor of Harrisburg, Arkansas, he touched an entire city.

In serving from 1975 to 1976, Mayor Shepherd produced an impressive list of accomplishments. He worked continually to bring grants into the city to help Harrisburg reach its full potential. Mayor Shepherd was responsible for the creation of a city park in Harrisburg. He was mayor when our nation celebrated its 200th birthday and directed the successful Harrisburg Bicentennial Celebration.

The city of Harrisburg will remember Mayor Shepherd through an upcoming city festival being held in his honor. The festival will serve as a testament to him and the contributions he made to his hometown. It is selfless people like Roger Shepherd that make the world a better place.

HONORING GULFSTREAM AERO- SPACE CORPORATION AND THE GULFSTREAM V INDUSTRY TEAM ON WINNING THE 1997 ROBERT J. COLLIER TROPHY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a thrill for me to speak in this chamber today not to talk about any pressing matters at hand or particular legislation, but to pay tribute to an outstanding company that is based in Georgia's 1st Congressional District. This company is known as Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, and they have reached a milestone.

Throughout my years as a public servant, I have come to know the Gulfstream Family in Savannah. They truly represent what it takes to become the nation's leading manufacturer in corporate/business jets. Every time I visit a member of this fine organization, I am always reminded of what symbolizes dedication and excellence.

Because of their unprecedented achievement, the Gulfstream V, and their flawless reputation, the National Aeronautic Association has awarded the 1997 Robert J. Collier Trophy to the Gulfstream Family. This acknowledgment is no ordinary, run-of-the-mill trophy. It is the aviation's most prestigious award.

The Collier Trophy is given annually by the National Aeronautic Association to recognize